

# Portland Dahlia Society Bulletin

Meets second Tuesday of the month at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda

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**Next meeting Tuesday, August 11th, 2015 @ 7:30 PM**

## COOKIES FOR AUGUST

Cookie hosts for August is the attending membership. Since we expect a good size group, let's see what we can bring to elicit ooh's and ah's.

## PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

Our program for August will be a mini-show along with a judging demonstration. If you have an entry or two you can bring, this will give us something to work with and brighten up the meeting space. There will be some cash prizes! We will have some florist foam available for sale in smaller size packages. What can we learn about dahlia shows, even if you don't grow for show? What are the judges looking for? What goes on at a show? We will have a hands-on staging demonstration for beginners. We would also like to try a container exchange. So if you could bring a few extra cans or other containers we can encourage our newest exhibitors.

## ANNUAL SHOW

It's hard to believe but the culmination of all our activities is fast approaching. We have all worked very hard on fund raising so we could stage the biggest and best show ever. Mega thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible!

If someone is thinking of exhibiting for the first time, please have courage and take the plunge. There was a first time for all of us. I know you will be pleasantly surprised with how well you do! We will have show schedules available at the meeting. Please take a copy and familiarize yourself with the show rules. Speaking of which...all exhibitors are required to sign-in with their exhibitor numbers under their respective competition division. If this is your first time or you need help with this, please ask the person (s) that is working with classification. They will be happy to show you how to register as an exhibitor. Those that have exhibited in the past are encouraged to bring lots of blooms, not just the

best of the best. I never was able to tell with any certainty which ones would be my big winners before the fact. The exhibit hall sure looks great when the tables are brimming with eye-candy entries.

If you would like to find out more about how dahlias are judged, helping out the judging teams as a clerk is a great way to observe and learn. This requires a small time commitment Saturday morning. Please contact Mark or Laura Oldenkamp at 503-649-4118 to participate.

Some advanced planning and preparation makes it a lot easier to get that winning entry from the garden to the head table. All exhibitors provide their own containers and filler. Most people use shredded florist foam for filler to support the flowers. The containers should be proportional to the size of the entry. Pompons and miniatures look good in a #303 can (14-15oz). The cans need to be painted with either dark green or black paint. Black is the required color for most shows in Washington State. Make sure you get your cans ready at least a few days in advance so the paint has a chance to dry thoroughly before use. Cans from last season may be cleaned or re-painted. After repeated use, some cans begin to rust from the inside soiling the filler and reducing the flower's keeping quality. These are best discarded.

Entry tags will be available at the August meeting. Pick up some so you will have them to place on your entries at home. This saves a lot of last minute work and frustration at the exhibit hall. The tags are color coded for competition category as follows: Juniors-yellow, Novice-pink, Amateur-blue, Open and Special Entry-white.

When is the best time to cut my blooms for show or other uses? I cut mostly early (that's with dew) Friday morning. Sometimes Thursday morning if the bloom needs an extra day away from the sun. Blooms need to be "set" so they will keep and show well. When cutting the blooms cut the stems at a 45 degree angle placing them in buckets containing two inches of hot water. As the water cools it gradually sets the blooms. Do not allow any foliage to touch the hot water or it will

blacken. The buckets of cut blooms need to be placed indoors in a cool place out of drafts and direct sunlight. A basement is an ideal location to store the blooms and use as a work area to “put up” your entries.

## CALL FOR AWARDS

Sweepstakes winners and People’s Choice winner from last year are asked to bring their revolving trophies to the August meeting or make other arrangements with Mike Riordan. Mike’s phone is 503-256-0425.

## SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We will need a few volunteers to help set up the exhibit hall at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds on Thursday afternoon, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 PM. We will be assembling the head table, covering it. Covering the exhibition tables and placing the Section markers.



## VISITING OPEN DAHLIA GARDENS

By Ted Kennedy

Some of my fondest memories are the trips we have taken to see the dahlias at the various commercial nurseries. Many of these businesses have been long closed but the memories will be with us forever.

There is a newer website that lists the “open” dahlia gardens all over the USA and most have directions, maps and even some pictures. The link to the site is: <http://www.dahlias.net/OGtopbox/opengarden.htm>

For Portland People, there are several gardens to visit in our area and first and foremost is Swan Island Dahlias. We are lucky to have the largest dahlia farm in the USA just a few miles from us in Canby. They are really set up for visitors. They have a nice parking lot just a few feet from their display garden. If you bring your lunch, they have picnic tables available too. And an added bonus is that the Portland Dahlia Society has their trial garden there. And another bonus is that they are open just about any time of day (except when the sprinklers are going).



*Mak's Lemon Zest*

For a nice day trip consider visiting Dan’s Dahlias in Oakville Washington. It is not too many miles North of Portland and is well worth the trip. Their three acre dahlia garden gets some of the coastal weather influence and many of the varieties have deeper colors than here in Portland. If you grow cut flowers and want to see some good cutting varieties, Dan has specialized in selling flowers at public markets for years and you can see them growing at their best in the garden.

If you are ever in the Coos Bay area, you have to visit Shore Acres State park. They have an extensive planting of dahlias and since they are right on the ocean, the colors of the dahlias are outstanding. The park is a gardener’s paradise and I have a picture of the dahlias growing there on my computer as the background for my desktop.

These are only a few suggestions. I am planning on visiting Teresa Bergman’s Cowlitz River Dahlias in Castle Rock, Washington and hope to say hello to Wayne Lobaugh at his Lobaugh’s Dahlias in Chehalis. And I am going to visit Alpen Gardens and say hello to John and Carla Stables. And every year, I visit Phil Mingus in Vancouver. Last year I wrote about dropping in on Park’s Dahlias in Azalea and Clack’s Dahlias in Myrtle Creek. And we have not been to Mohawk Dahlia Gardens or Frey’s Dahlias in many years and need to go back. You know there are so many dahlias and so little time...

## SHOW DATES

PNDC Show hosted by the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society, Gold Beach, OR August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Victoria – August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Portland – September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Southern Oregon – September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lane County – September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Douglas County – September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>